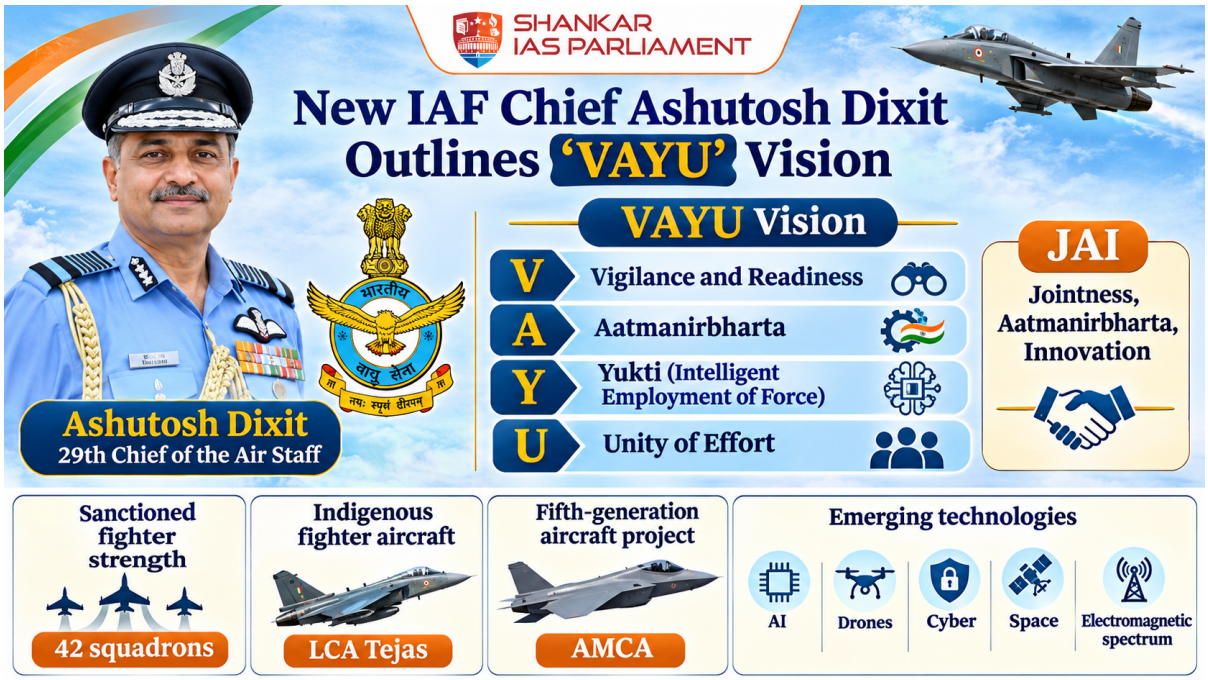
New IAF Chief Ashutosh Dixit Outlines 'VAYU' Vision

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Defence*

Why in News?

Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the position of the 29th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF).



- He articulated the 'VAYU' vision, which aims to strengthen and modernise the Indian Air Force.
- He succeeded Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh in this role.

VAYU Vision

- **Four Key Pillars**

Letter	Full Form	Key Priorities
V	Vigilance and Readiness	Combat readiness and restoration of sanctioned fighter squadron strength.
A	Aatmanirbharta	Indigenous aircraft, weapons, sensors and defence technologies.
Y	Yukti (Ingenuity)	Innovation in technology, doctrine and operational procedures.

U	Unity of Effort	Jointness and coordination among Army, Navy, IAF and national agencies.

- **V – Vigilance and Readiness**
  - Maintain operational readiness across all squadrons, radar installations, and air defence units.
  - Restore the Indian Air Force's fighter strength to the authorized level of 42 squadrons.
  - Address the decline in fighter squadron strength caused by aircraft retirements and induction delays.
- **A – Aatmanirbharta (Self-Reliance)**
  - Prioritise developing and integrating indigenous defence capabilities:
    - LCA Tejas Mk1 and Mk1A.
    - Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).
    - Indigenous weapons and sensors.
    - Strengthen domestic defence manufacturing and promote operational self-reliance.
- **Y – Yukti (Ingenuity)**
  - Promote innovation in military operations by implementing:
    - Networked and AI-enabled command and control.
    - Layered counter-drone defence.
    - Advanced maintenance systems.
    - Enhance force protection measures and operational resilience.
    - Utilise near-space as an operational domain.
    - Drive innovation in military doctrine and operational procedures.
- **U – Unity of Effort**
  - Strengthen joint operational planning among the three armed forces.
  - Integrate the Army, Navy, Air Force, and national agencies.
  - Emphasise jointness from the earliest stages of operational planning.
- **JAI Vision –** The VAYU framework is consistent with the overarching JAI vision:
  - J – Jointness
  - A – Aatmanirbharta
  - I – Innovation
- **Objective** – To enhance integrated defence capabilities and increase operational effectiveness.
- **Emerging Technologies Transforming Warfare –** The Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) emphasized the evolving nature of warfare resulting from:
  - Drones.
  - Long-range precision weapons.
  - Space technology.
  - Cyber warfare.
  - Artificial Intelligence (AI).
  - Electromagnetic spectrum operations.
- **Significance –** The IAF is required to adapt its capabilities to effectively address emerging security challenges and future warfare demands.

Reference

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